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February 2, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia A. Harding".

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON DISNEY PARKS-ASSOCIATED MEASLES OUTBREAK IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

This is an update on the Disneyland/Disney Parks-associated measles outbreak in Los Angeles County as requested by your Board on January 27, 2015. It builds upon the report sent to your Board on January 21, 2015, and the presentation by Department of Public Health (DPH) Interim Health Officer Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser at the January 27, 2015 Board meeting. In addition to updated case information, this report details DPH's case investigation, contact follow up, and outreach efforts, including outreach to medical professionals, school districts, and information provided to the public.

Case Update

There are currently 92 confirmed cases of measles in California and at least 16 more cases in thirteen other states and Mexico. There are currently 21 confirmed cases of measles in Los Angeles County, including 17 confirmed cases with linkages to the Disney Parks. None of the confirmed cases has documented proof of vaccination. To date, DPH has conducted approximately 800 contact investigations and these numbers may grow as the outbreak continues. DPH has also identified public venues and healthcare settings at which potential exposures occurred, and is working with those sites to ensure the health and safety of those who may have been exposed. All contacts who were unvaccinated prior to measles exposure or not considered immune are requested by DPH staff, as per disease control protocol, to limit contact with other individuals for the duration of the 21-day incubation period. At this time, there have been no legal orders implemented by DPH to contain contacts in their homes.

DPH Outreach to Medical Practitioners on Recognizing Measles

Due to successful long-term public health strategies for measles vaccination and control, few providers in Los Angeles County have first-hand clinical experience with actual measles cases. To help ensure that healthcare providers in Los Angeles County are vigilant about suspecting measles in their patients, DPH has sent out two Los Angeles Health Alert Network (LAHAN) messages. The first LAHAN alert was disseminated on January 8, 2015 to hospital emergency rooms and other healthcare providers about the measles outbreak in Los Angeles County. The second message was sent on January 23, 2015 to the full LAHAN membership of more than 5,000 members. In addition, DPH partnered with the Medical Board of California to send the HAN message directly to over 11,000 licensed Los Angeles County physicians (targeting primary care providers and those with specialties in infectious disease and emergency medicine). Additional direct email blasts included all E-Consult users (more than 2,000 users from the Department of Health Services' ambulatory care and community clinic network) and DPH's *Rx for Prevention* primary care list serve (with over 1,500 members). Included in the HAN measles advisory are phone numbers for questions, and also web links to measles training/refresher resources for healthcare providers.

DPH reached out to local chapters of professional groups with a request that they disseminate the HAN message through their membership, including the California Association of Nurse Practitioners, Kaiser Permanente Southern California, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, and the California Academy of Family Practitioners.

Public Outreach

DPH updated its website with the most current information on measles, including a recently developed frequently asked questions fact sheet on measles, available in English and Spanish. The website contains a listing of locations at which free or low-cost measles vaccination can be obtained, as well as a video statement from Dr. Gunzenhauser on measles.

DPH created a guide for use by 2-1-1 system operators for responding to public inquiries.

Media Outreach

Dr. Gunzenhauser hosted a telebriefing to provide reporters an update on the current outbreak of measles and efforts to prevent the spread of infection in Los Angeles County. Twenty-seven media outlets participated.

School District Outreach

Generally, vaccination rates in Los Angeles County amongst school-aged children are high enough to prevent the ongoing transmission of a disease like measles. However, there are some schools at which the Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) rate is high enough so that this protection (referred to as "herd immunity") is not present. DPH continues ongoing messaging and outreach activities to encourage vaccination. The DPH Immunization Program routinely works with school districts to establish school-located vaccination clinics, supported by the national Vaccines for Children

(VFC) program. This allows for schools to provide convenient vaccination services on school premises.

Many of the under-immunized children are in affluent communities that have access to medical homes and private insurance. By law, school districts routinely require students to document measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine or measles immunity status or to file a PBE. DPH staff continues to work with school districts to ensure that susceptible students and staff exposed to measles cases get reviewed to determine need for vaccine or other medical follow-up, for example for special at-risk populations like pregnant women; and to ensure that susceptible contacts are monitored and kept out of school. DPH works closely with school districts to coordinate efforts to contain disease in an effort to ensure the health of unvaccinated and other high risk individuals within the school community.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

CAH:rkf

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
 County Counsel
 Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors